

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 308148
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 308148

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY TOWARD GULF SECURITY

REFERENCES: (A) RIYADH 397, (B) TEHRAN 11365

1. IN YOUR SCHEDULED DECEMBER 28 MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER PRINCE SAUD YOU SHOULD ADDRESS AGAIN HIS CONCERN
ABOUT THE PRESS REPORTS OF RECENT CONANT STUDY PREPARED FOR
SENATOR JACKSON'S ENERGY COMMITTEE, ENTITLED QUOTE ACCESS
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TO OIL--THE UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIPS WITH SAUDI ARABIA
AND IRAN UNQUOTE (PARA 3 REF A). YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) AS YOU HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED, THE STUDY DOES NOT BEAR
ENDORSEMENT OF CONGRESS NOR IS IT IN ANY WAY A U.S.
POLICY STATEMENT.

B) THE JACKSON COMMITTEE HAS RELEASED A PUBLIC STATEMENT (USIS WIRELESS FILE DECEMBER 20 INFO NOTE TO JIDDA, KUWAIT, TEHRAN BEING REPEATED OTHER ADDRESSEES) REBUTTING PRESS ACCOUNTS OF STUDY AS MISLEADING. WE SEE NO NEED TO DIGNIFY PRESS ACCOUNTS BY ISSUING USG STATEMENT OF REBUTTAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT BEEN QUERIED BY PRESS RE THE STUDY IN QUESTION, AND TO ISSUE STATEMENT AT THIS

DATE WOULD SERVE MERELY TO REVIVE INTEREST IN SUBJECT THAT SEEMS HOPEFULLY MORIBUND.

C) WHILE PRESS ACCOUNTS WERE GENERALLY UNBALANCED AND MISLEADING, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT STUDY ITSELF SOUGHT TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING COOPERATION AMONG SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN AND THE U.S.

D) SAG AND OTHER GULF GOVERNMENTS ARE WELL AWARE OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE GULF, WHICH HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED BEFORE THE CONGRESS AND IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RECENT YEARS. U.S. WELCOMES AND SEEKS TO FOSTER COOPERATION AMONG THE GULF STATES IN THE INTEREST OF THE SECURITY AND ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION, AND PARTICULARLY LOOKS TO COOPERATION BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN AS THE MAINSTAY OF THE REGION'S SECURITY.

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E) BECAUSE OF WORLD INTEREST IN THE GULF STATES, IT APPEARS INEVITABLE THAT THE PRESS WILL FROM TIME TO TIME, AS IN THE CASE OF CONANT STUDY, DISTORT OR SENSATIONALIZE U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE GULF AND ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE GULF STATES. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT SAG AND OTHER FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS PHENOMENON, HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE STEADFASTNESS OF U.S. FRIENDSHIP AND FULL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POLICY TOWARD THE REGION, AND WOULD NOT EXPECT USG TO RESPOND PUBLICLY TO EVERY MISINTERPRETATION IN THE PRESS OR ELSEWHERE.

2. IF HOST GOVERNMENTS RAISE CONANT STUDY WITH INFO ADDRESSEE POSTS, YOU MAY WISH TO REPLY ALONG ABOVE LINES.

3. ADDRESSEES MAY ALSO WISH TO REVIEW STATE 254540 AND STATE 254542 GIVING GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO QUERIES ABOUT OCTOBER REMARKS BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND DEALING WITH THIS GENERAL SUBJECT.

4. COPIES OF CONANT STUDY WERE MAILED TO ADDRESSEES LAST WEEK.

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